

MEMORY
MIGRATION
+ MUSIC



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RECENT CHANGES TO IMMIGRATION AND CROSS-BORDER
MIGRATION HAVE RESULTED IN A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN
MIGRANT COMMUNITIES WITHIN LINCOLNSHIRE, ESPECIALLY
FROM AREAS OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE BALTIC.

THIS CHANGE IN DEMOGRAPHIC HAS CAUSED TENSIONS, ESPECIALLY
SINCE THE 2016 REFERENDUM, REVEALING CHALLENGES FACED BY
BOTH MIGRATING AND HOST POPULATIONS.

'Memory, Migration & Music' recognized those challenges faced by
migrants in trying to assimilate into a new, wider community, but also
those challenges faced by UK communities in trying to understand
and embrace the different cultures of the new communities.

Inspired by 'Welcoming Voices', a University of Lincoln
mixed-method research project evaluating how Eastern European and
Baltic migration to Lincolnshire affects musical practices, 'Memory,
Migration & Music' has recorded the stories of some of the Lithuanian
and Polish communities living in Lincoln and Boston, Lincolnshire.

PHASE ONE

‘Memory, Migration & Music’ captured stories through conducting a series of oral history recordings, encouraging participants to share their memories, their migration experience, and the music that has mattered to them on that journey.

The intangible cultural heritage in the form of 22 filmed testimonials, a film focussing on what music meant to the participants and a final compilation film, along with this publication have been placed with Lincolnshire Archives, the University of Lincoln, the Lincolnshire Polish Society and the Boston Lithuanian Community Group, who will make them available to anyone curious in learning a little more about their new neighbours.

PHASE TWO

Having been generous with their time in agreeing to share their cultural heritage stories with the project, the participants of Memory, Migration and Music, along with their friends and family were invited to experience some of Lincoln's rich, built and social heritage by way of a series of familiarisation visits to the following heritage sites, resulting in a confidence to return to the sites with friends and family during the summer months.

- Lincoln Cathedral
- The Museum of Lincolnshire Life
- Lincoln Castle
- Magna Carta Vault



“ I'm very
passionate
about music...
and for me
England, the
UK was like
a powerbase
with the music I
listen to. ”

AGNIESZKA
SLIWINSKA

“The access changed... when I was 15, that was in the 1980s... we did not have the internet and that kind of tools to listen to – only cassettes, then CDs, and MP3s and then the internet... when I was thirty...I could listen to any music. ”



“ Even in the 80s
we could see the
British influence
of punk rock in
Polish bands. After
89' we had
MYSLOVITZ which
sounded like British
punk rock music. ”

ALICJA
ZYLKA-ZEBRACKA

“I like Siren FM because there is everything. I don't listen to one type of music. Like I said, I have a day for Dolly Parton and days for hardcore music. This is who I am.”



ANDRIUS
BUIVYDAS

“When music
lives in our
heart, there
is no room
for evil.”

“Migration is a great way to get new things started; to try something new and gain priceless experiences. These are new opportunities, challenges and discoveries.”



ANNA
PAWLINSKA

“I tend to
listen to the
music that's
available and
that you're
surrounded by.”

“I've got good memories of English music because that's how I was encouraged to learn English, because I wanted to know what they were singing about. Generally the music brings me happy memories, and most of my music choices were singing in the English language. I've got a vivid memory of The Wall by Pink Floyd. ... this was a time when MTV was just introduced in Poland, and I remember a very strange video clip of hammers and a cartoon-like song!”



AUŠRA
GERUTIENĖ

" I sing in the
shower, I go to
concerts and
I blast music
out in the car. "

The only thing I can think of when I think about music in Lithuania is I remember when we were kids we used to go to the countryside to celebrate the midsummer night and day, and I remember people dancing and singing folk songs and kids running round and huge fires burning.



BART
STANCZYK

" Music is
a way of
expressing
myself "

" It's a way of helping to
deal with the every day "



BRIGITA
ŠIDLAUSKIENĖ

" I often play
music in my car,
home and on my
phone. It gives
me lots of
satisfaction and
helps me to learn
English at the
same time "

I am honoured to have an opportunity to participate in Migration, Memory
and Music. It was interesting to share my experiences. Music is an
integral part of my life.



DANGUOLE
BUGVILIENE

" Music is just
one word ...
and thousands
of emotions. "

" Music is God's messenger which has been
sent to play the most gentle and
beautiful tunes of our souls "



"Music is
something
magical"

EGIDIJUS
SAULIUS

"it makes us calm down,
relax and concentrate"



"People have
always been
accompanied by
music. It is a
reflection of
daily routine,
social life and an
expression of our
feelings."

EGLE
ZASYTIENE

"Music is unique, a unifying language that does not require words. No
matter where we are and who we are, music helps us to express
ourselves and be understood."



"Music is
therapy"

HOPE
BATEMAN

"If you're not feeling so good you can write
about it. If you apply it to your band, it's a
good way of reaching out to people"



"Music is
my way of
expressing
myself..."

JAKUB
PIĄTKOWSKI

"... of escaping daily life."



**JAKUB
ZYLKA-ZEBRACKI**

“Music? “It is one of those things that you can take with you without a suitcase. It is part of who you are, I guess, like your identity...!”

“I've reached the point of no return, because England's not home, and Poland's not home either any more. I think I feel a little bit more comfortable in Poland, but for example, in a city like Krakow which is so multicultural that you wouldn't even know it was Poland any more... I would prefer to say that I was a European – whatever that means at the moment because of all the (current) chaos.”



**KATARZYNA
BEDNARCZYK**

“Discopolo? It's our national music which contains rubbish Polish music, words and songs. The main music I listen to is pop, but from all around the world”

“In the UK I have discovered a much wider range of music – Indie music, etc., and have been introduced to new sounds than those in Poland. If I had stayed in Poland I would not have had the taste in music I now have.”



MAGDA
BEDNARCZYK

" I've noticed
that a lot of
bands from
Poland... they
take old Polish
folk songs and
make them into
new things... "

Poland will always be my home...the place that shaped me into who I am. It's very important to remember where I'm from and who I am .. and music is a way of helping me with this. Sometimes it helps me to explain to people who are not Polish... music helps me to show them who we really are.



MANTAS
GRAUŽINIS

" Music is
the love of
my life! I
am living
with music "

I am living with music. I don't think migration affected my musical taste, because I'm still listening to the same music I like and doing the same things I like here as in Lithuania. You can't just change your type of music; you feel the music, so it is the same.



MARIAN
LEWANDOWSKI

"I used to sing in the Army Choir. We were good! It was a form of escape from the everyday duties. I served in the Army for 13 years."

"In Poland rock music had energy (it was the time of my youth). Back then you had to have courage to sing in those types of bands and that type of music because of the system we lived in. British people won't understand this. Music is music. Music is international. At this point there are no differences. You can't say music is Polish, American or British. It is all the same. I don't use music as a form of reminding myself of Poland or when I feel nostalgic. When I feel like this I pick up the phone and talk to my mother or my son."



PAULA & RAFAL
NAMCZUK

"Obviously there are some Polish songs that we have a lot of very good memories of"

"...they mean a lot to us, very symbolic, so we often go back to them, but we are very open to new kinds of music we have never heard before."

Paula: "I grew up listening to Pop Music mainly. I was a huge fan of Britney Spears when I was a teenager."

Rafal: My favourite band was Offspring, so a little bit harder!



SMILTĖ MATULIONYTĖ

“ They are more
smiley here,
more polite.

It's difficult to
compare, because
most of my growing
up was here ”

“I listen to a few songs that are a bit silly because it would just remind me of the times I would have with my friends. We would listen to them and have little parties, dancing around, and I would listen to them to remind me of the fun times. I still listen to them now even though they were really silly old songs, in Lithuanian.”



SNIEGUOLĖ MILKŪNAITĖ

“ Music is
spring
water ”

“ You drink from it and
you cannot stop ”



" Music -
It's a
universal
language "

TOMASZ
TYRLÍK

" When I'm sad it helps me to relax, it helps me
to deal with my mood at that minute "



" Music does
not have any
borders or
restrictions "

VILMA
ROPEIKIENĖ

" It is free and speaks all
languages "



“

Music is the best
communicator.

No words are
needed when the
heart speaks

”



JURATE
MATULIONIENE

“The Memory, Migration and Music project is unique. It has helped us to recall the most beautiful memories of our younger days and get back (with our thoughts) to our native countries. It was exciting to share our musical tastes and learn about different styles which vary depending on our personalities, generations, historical events and cultures.”

FUTURE PLANS

‘MEMORY, MIGRATION & MUSIC’ IS PART OF THE LARGER, STRATEGIC UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN ‘WELCOMING VOICES’ RESEARCH PROJECT AND HAS BEEN WORKING WITH A RANGE OF LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS. IT IS THE COMING TOGETHER OF THIS UNIQUE RANGE OF ORGANISATIONS THAT HAS PROVIDED THE PROJECT WITH BOTH ITS STRENGTH AND OPTIMISM.

‘Memory, Migration & Music’ is one of a suite of community engagement projects either currently being delivered, about to begin or in advanced stages of development and offers Lincolnshire and the east Midlands the opportunity for some of the county's key cultural and educational organisations to work closer together in their shared aim of establishing a more socially-cohesive, integrated Lincolnshire.

From 2018 to 2021, it is intended to create a young people's Pop-Up Museum; provide programming advice and support for Lincolnshire's arts venues and festivals; research the feasibility of a commissioning and co-commissioning programme, and secure funding and begin work on the three year AHRC Welcoming Voices research.

SUPPORTERS

Throughout the development and delivery of 'Migration, Memory & Music' the following organisations have provided advice and support:

- University of Lincoln
- Boston Lithuanian Community Group
- Peterborough Lithuanian Community
- Paradigm Arts
- Just Lincolnshire
- MediaLincs
- Lincolnshire County Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- Lincolnshire Polish Society

- Lincolnshire One Venues (LOV)
- Foreign Languages Institute, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
- Social Anthropology programme, Riga Stradins University, Latvia
- Institute of Music, University of Warsaw
- School of Social Sciences, Loughborough University
- School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College, London
- Centre for Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford
- Centre for Research on Migration and Multiculturalism, University of Roehampton
- Migration, Culture and Community, Sheffield Hallam University

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<https://nieviem.bandcamp.com>

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MIGRATION, MEMORY & MUSIC PROJECT TEAM

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS

Jurate Matulioniene
Magdalena Bednarczyk

PHOTOGRAPHY & FILM

Matthew Newell
inMOTION Filmworks

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Chris Searson
Blueprint Film

PRODUCER

Dr. Dominic Symonds
University of Lincoln

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

David Lambert
cultural solutions UK

Contact:

david@culturalsolutions.co.uk

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